

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW

APPROVED BY NEA- MR. DUBS

S/S -0: SSTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, DELIVER CHARGE OPENING OF BUSINESS, SECDEL:ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL US-PAKISTAN MEETING

REF: ISLAMABAD 4774

1. AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DUBS MAY 11 AT THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST. THE
AMBASSADOR MADE THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

A. THE GOP WAS DELIGHTED TO CONVEY ITS AGREEMENT FOR
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HUMMEL. FORMAL NOTIFICATION WOULD
BE DELIVERED LATER THAT DAY. MR. DUBS EXPRESSED HIS AP-
PRECIATION FOR THIS ACTION.

B. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON
HAD ON MAY 4 SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY MEET WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER AZIZ AHMED IN TEHRAN DURING THE CENTO MEETING.

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THE GOP WAS HAPPY TO RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE AND APPRECIATES
THE PRESSURE ON THE SECRETARY'S TIME, BUT HOPES THAT THE
SECRETARY COULD COME TO ISLAMABAD FOR A MEETING WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER. THE GOP BELIEVES THAT SUCH A FRANK AND
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

C. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER

SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF AZIZ AHMED COMING TO WASHINGTON IF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO COME TO ISLAMABAD. THE GOP HAD SHIFTED ITS POSITION ON THIS POINT SINCE IT BELIEVED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE MORE USEFUL. AFTER SUCH A MEETING THE FOREIGN MINISTER COULD COME TO WASHINGTON.

D. AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE DECISION NOT TO SEND AZIZ AHMED TO CENTO HAD BEEN MADE PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF THE USG'S PROPOSAL OF A MEETING IN TEHRAN. THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE SOME TIME AGO, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS APRIL 22. ON THAT DATE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CALLED IN THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WITH RESPECT TO BBC BROADCASTS. HE HAD REJECTED BRITISH STATEMENTS THAT THE BBC WAS INDEPENDENT AND HAD STATED THAT THE GOP "COULD SEE THROUGH THE BBC'S GAME" AND THAT THE BBC COULD NOT FOLLOW A DIFFERENT POLICY THAN THE UK. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOTED THAT ONE OF THE GOALS OF CENTO HAD BEEN TO COUNTER SUBVERSION AND YET THE BBC WAS INCITING SUBVERSION IN PAKISTAN. HE HAD INFORMED THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR THAT IN VIEW OF THE BRITISH POSITION IT MIGHT NOT BE WORTHWHILE FOR HIM TO ATTEND THE CENTO MEETING. THE DECISION THEREFORE NOT TO GO TO TEHRAN HAD BEEN MADE PRIMARILY DUE TO THE PROBLEMS WITH THE UK AND HAD BEEN MADE WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTION OF A BILATERAL MEETING.

2. DUBS NOTED THE CHANGE IN THE GOP POSITION ON A HIGH-SECRET

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LEVEL MEETING AND STATED THAT OUR CHARGE HAD ALSO BEEN SO INFORMED. WE REGRET THAT THE SECRETARY'S FIRM SCHEDULE IN WEEKS AHEAD PRECLUDES A VISIT TO ISLAMABAD. THE SECRETARY HAD EARLIER MADE A DECISION TO INVITE AZIZ AHMED TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON MAY 26 OR 27, THE FIRST AVAILABLE DATES ON HIS SCHEDULE. IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED GOP POSITION, THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A BILATERAL MEETING IN PARIS DURING THE CIEC MEETING MAY 30-JUNE 2. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT AZIZ AHMED WAS PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. DUBS ASKED FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE SO THAT SUCH A MEETING COULD BE FITTED INTO THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE. HE BELIEVED THAT THE MEETING COULD PROVE USEFUL.

3. DUBS NOTED THAT ON MAY 4 THE AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED WITH MR. ATHERTON RECENT VOA REPORTING ON THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.

WE HAVE REVIEWED BROADCASTS DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 19 TO MAY 9. OUR REVIEW INDICATES THAT VOA

RESTRICTED ITSELF TO REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS AS SEEN BY VARIOUS SOURCES AND DID NOT INDULGE IN EDITORIALIZING. VOA DID NOT BROADCAST ANY COMMENTARY OR ANALYSIS OF U.S. OPINION ROUNDUPS ON PAKISTAN DURING THIS PERIOD. THE VOICE OF AMERICA IS AN AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH DOES NOT SLANT ITS REPORTING TO FAVOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OR POLICY. THIS REPORTING SEEMED TO US TO BE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL AND IN NO WAY BIASED AGAINST PAKISTAN OR ITS GOVERNMENT. SHOULD AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN WISH TO CITE ANY PARTICULAR VOA BROADCASTS AS BIASED AGAINST PAKISTAN OR ITS LEADERSHIP, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER WHATEVER TRANSCRIPTS OF BROADCASTS HE CITES. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE REITERATED THAT VOA IS AN AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION AND NEITHER SLANTS THE NEWS OR PERMITS OTHERS TO DO SO.

4. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED ISLAMABAD FOR SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF OBJECTIONABLE BROADCASTS BUT NO
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REPLY HAD AS YET BEEN RECEIVED. HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT IN RECENT DAYS THE REPORTING WAS MORE BALANCED. HE WOULD WAIT FOR A SPECIFIC REPLY FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. YOU SHOULD PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF USG POSITION NOTED ABOVE AND REQUEST AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL THAT A BILATERAL MEETING TAKE PLACE IN PARIS AT THE TIME OF THE CIEC MINISTERIAL.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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